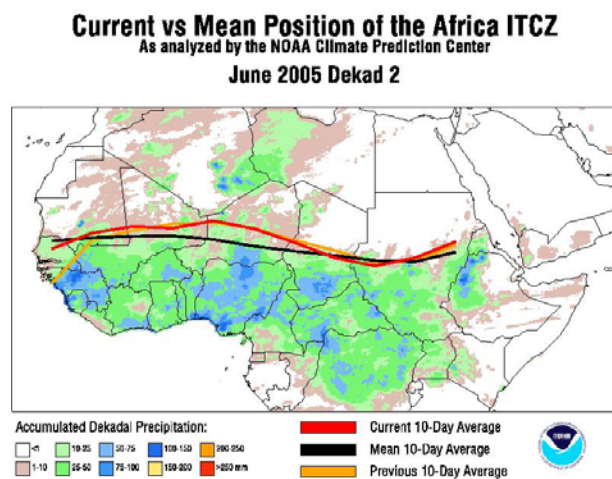


Mali desert locust update for 11-20 June 2005

Meteorological conditions

The Africa section of the ITCZ remained north of the median position over most of the Sahel for this period (see below) resulting in cloud cover and rain in parts of the country. The rainy season has been progressively developing beginning end of May 2005 in the desert locust gregarization areas.



Ecological conditions

With the seasonal rains in sight, the annual vegetations will soon begin appearing more and more and the perennials regenerating. Coupled with precipitation, these will create favorable conditions for reproduction and survival of the locusts.

Locust situation

An unconfirmed report from nomads indicated that two swarms were seen coming from northwestern Africa into Mali, but the situation remained relatively calm during the second dekad of June, although it is likely that some limited activities may have commenced in remote areas in the gregarization zone.

Actions taken

Four survey and control teams are preparing for deployment in a matter of days to carry out intensive survey/control operations in Gao region.

Pesticides

More than 264,000 liters of pesticides are stored in Bamako and the regional plant protection department facilities. Most of these are leftovers from last year's consignments by FAO, donations from neighboring countries and other sources (on June 13, 2005, Mali received 2,400 liters of malathion 925 ULV from the Government of Egypt). Considering the current locust situation and the projected summer invasion, Mali will not need additional pesticides for the 2005 campaign.

Forecast

The locust situation will begin evolving as ecological conditions continue to develop in the gregarization zones. If and when swarms migrate from northwest Africa, they will likely augment resident populations and further develop. Therefore, it is important that intensive survey and monitoring are maintained and preventive control interventions carried out as necessary.

AELGA will continue monitoring the situation and issue updates and advices as often as necessary.

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